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INTRODUCTION

The Saginaw County Friend of the Court (FOC) had a contract with the Michigan Family Independence Agency (FIA) to enforce all orders of support over which the Saginaw County FOC had jurisdiction, to locate absent parents, and to provide certain reports on child support collections to the FIA. Saginaw County FOC billed FIA monthly under the actual cost reimbursement billing method. FIA reimbursed Saginaw County for their costs based on the Federal IV-D Program regulations.

SCOPE

We performed an audit of the costs submitted for reimbursement by the Saginaw County FOC for the period October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors. We performed the audit tests that we determined were necessary to determine if the costs charged were proper, accurate, documented, and charged in accordance with the terms of the contract.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We found that the Saginaw County FOC overbilled the FIA for some line items and underbilled for others. The State share of the net amount overbilled was \$9,180. (See Schedule A.)

Our report recommends the Family Services Administration initiate the process to recoup \$9,180 from the Saginaw County FOC.

FOC RESPONSE

The Saginaw County FOC has reviewed all findings and recommendations included in this report. They indicated in a letter dated December 27, 1999 that they are in general agreement with the report, and have requested a waiver to exceed the 60 days of working capital allowed by OMB Circular A-87.

FINDINGS

Personnel - Pension Cost

1. The Saginaw County FOC underbilled the FIA \$1,042 for pension costs because they used a lower rate of contribution than the rate of contribution specified in the Actuarial Cost Plan. (See Schedule A.)

Personnel – Social Security Tax

2. The Saginaw County FOC underbilled the FIA \$420 for social security tax. (See Schedule A.)

Personnel – Employee Benefits Cost

3. Saginaw County FOC overbilled FIA \$3,545 for employee benefits. The employee benefits were accounted for in the County's Employee Benefits fund, an internal service fund. Attachment C, Section G, 2 of OMB Circular A-87 (A-87) limits the reserves in an internal service fund to sixty days of working capital. Saginaw County indicated the reserves in the internal service fund were made up of three components. The three components were: sixty days of working capital; \$1,050,000 reserve for losses that are not covered by reinsurance; and \$875,645 of reserves in excess of sixty days of working capital that should be credited back to the departments. Saginaw County asked the Michigan Jobs Commission, in March of 1998, for an A-87 waiver for the reserve for losses. To date they have not received the waiver. The reserve for losses, therefore, is not in accordance with A-

87. The FOC share of the \$1,050,000 reserve is \$3,570. The County did credit the reserves in excess of sixty days of working capital back to the departments in a subsequent fiscal year, therefore, no adjustment is done related to those reserves. (See Schedule A.)

Other Direct – Liability Insurance (Risk Management) Cost

4. Saginaw County FOC overbilled the FIA \$10,281 for liability insurance costs that were included in other direct costs. The liability insurance costs were accounted for in the County's Risk Management fund, an internal service fund. Attachment C, Section G, 2 of A-87 limits the reserves in an internal service fund to sixty days of working capital. The reserves in the county's internal service fund exceeded the sixty-day working capital requirement. Saginaw County indicated the excess reserves had been credited back to the departments in the subsequent year. A review of the subsequent year, however, showed that the reserves were still in excess of the sixty-day requirement. After subtracting sixty days of working capital and the amount credited back in the subsequent year the excess reserves as of September 30, 1997 were calculated to be \$450,000. The FOC share of that amount is \$10,355. (See Schedule A.)

Other Income – Miscellaneous Income not Offset

5. Saginaw County FOC overbilled the FIA \$518 because income that was generated from copying charges was not offset against the costs billed. A-87, Attachment A, Section C, 4 requires costs to be net of applicable credits. (See Schedule A.)

Personnel – Post Employment Benefits

6. Saginaw County did not account for its Post Retirement Health Benefits Fund as a trust fund in the accounting records. Rather, they included this fund in the internal

services fund, although they had documentation that the monies were accumulated and deposited under a trust agreement. OMB Circular A-87 requires that for these costs to be billable the costs must be funded by the County and must be maintained in a trust fund or reserve by a trustee.

WE RECOMMEND the Family Services Administration initiate the process to recoup \$9,180 from the Saginaw County FOC.

WE ALSO RECOMMEND the Family Independence Services Administration obtain documentation from Saginaw County FOC that the Saginaw County Post Retirement Health Benefits Fund is properly placed in a trust fund or reserve, and is properly accounted for in the accounting records.

| Finding # | Line Item | Year | | (Over)/Under Billed Gross Amount | | IV-D % | (Over)/Under Billed IV-D Amount | | State % | Due (State) County | |
|---|--------------|------|----|--|----------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | Personnel | 1997 | | \$ | 1,049 | 99.29% | \$ | 1,042 | | | |
| 2 | Personnel | 1997 | | \$ | 423 | 99.29% | \$ | 420 | | | |
| 3 | Personnel | 1997 | | \$ | (3,570) | 99.29% | \$ | (3,545) | | | |
| 4 | Other Direct | 1997 | | \$ | (10,355) | 99.29% | \$ | (10,281) | | | |
| 5 | Other Income | 1997 | | \$ | (518) | 99.29% | \$ | (514) | | | |
| Grand Total of the IV-D Audit Adjustments | | | | | | \$ | (12,879) | | | | |
| Calculation of the Payment Due the (State) County | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Audited IV-D Amount | | | \$ | 2,578,853 | | | | | | | |
| IV-D Amount Used for the Payments Actually Made | | | | , | \$ | (2,591,732) | | | | | |
| IV-D Audit Adjustment Due (State) County | | | | | | \$ | (12,879) | 71.28% | \$ | (9,180) | |